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CIA-RDP81-00280R001300100062-0

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Bulgaria/Yugoslavia

REPORT

SUBJECT Bulgarian-Yugoslav Relations

DATE DISTR. 24 October 1955

NO. PAGES 1

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

DATE OF INFO.

REFERENCES

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PLACE & DATE ACQ.

1. The appointment of Deputy Premier : Karlo Lukanov to the post of the deceased Bulgarian Foreign Minister Dr. Mincho Noychev had no effect on Yugoslav-Bulgarian relations. Lukanov belonged to the entourage of Premier Yugov who had recently become still more reserved toward Bulgaria¹ than previously. A Yugoslav request put forward through diplomatic channels that Bulgaria should send home the pro-Cominform Yugoslavs living on Bulgarian soil was answered by Lukanov in an evasive manner, although their return was regarded by Belgrade as a test on the good-will of its neighboring State. The present deadlock of Yugoslav-Bulgarian relations was also indicated in a letter sent by the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Bulgarian People's Assembly to the Presidium of the Skupstina in Belgrade in which the view of the artificially spoiled relations between Sofia and Belgrade was repeated, although Bulgaria was fully aware that this view was sharply rejected by Belgrade, which still persistently demanded of Bulgaria a clear confession of her guilt toward Yugoslavia along the lines taken by Budapest and Prague.

2. Concerning domestic affairs, the view prevailed in Belgrade that Yugov had failed to build up for himself an unchallengeable position and that a return of Chervenkov to the post of Bulgarian Premier was not altogether impossible, but his main handicap was at the moment his enmity toward Tito. In view of the fact that the loosening of Moscow's grip of the satellites had led to a strengthening of nationalist feelings in Bulgaria, Sofia was less than even prepared to recognize Tito's hegemony in the Balkans.

1. Headquarters Comment: Probably Yugoslavia is meant.

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Comment: This confirms previous information that Chervenkov's resignation from the post of Premier was in the first place designed for the public and has not entailed a basic change of Bulgarian-Yugoslav relations. Apparently, Bulgaria prefers dependence on Moscow to that on Yugoslavia which might be the result of the realization of Tito's Balkan plan.

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